

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 10693RMUS01U (NORT10-00255)
U.S. SERIAL NO. 09/468,138
PATENT

REMARKS

Claims 1-38 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-8, 18-27, 35 and 36 have been rejected.

Claims 9-17, 28-34, 37 and 38 have been objected to.

Claims 9, 28 and 29 have been amended, as set forth herein.

Claims 1-8, 18-27, 35 and 36 have been canceled, without prejudice.

I. APPLICANT'S RESPONSE FILED JUNE 7, 2004 and TELEPHONIC EXAMINER INTERVIEW HELD JULY 15, 2004.

In response to the Final Office Action (mailed April 7, 2004), Applicant submitted an amendment and response on June 7, 2004. The June 7, 2007 response amended Claims 9, 28 and 29. An Advisory Action was mailed on July 1, 2004 indicating that the amendments were not entered.

On July 15, 2004, the undersigned counsel and the Examiner held a telephonic interview to discuss the amendments to Claims 9 and 29 as proposed in Applicant's June 7 response. During the interview, the undersigned counsel explained that the amendments (as suggested to be made in the April 7, 2004 to overcome objections to Claims 9-17, 28-34, 37 and 38) were actually included in Applicant's June 7 response. The Examiner indicated that it was likely that the amendments to claims 9 and 29 proposed in the June 7 response put the claims in condition for allowance.

Therefore, Applicant is submitting this response to formally amend Claims 9 and 29, and amend Claim 28 to rewrite this claim in independent form, and Applicant respectfully requests entry of these amendments.

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II. OBJECTIONS TO CLAIMS 9-17, 29, 37 and 38

Claims 9-17, 29, 37 and 38 were objected to because of informalities in Claims 9 and 29. Applicant has amended these Claims in accordance with the Examiner's request. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully request withdrawal of the informality objections to these Claims.

III. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication in the April 7, 2004 office action that Claims 9-17, 37 and 38 are objected to due to minor informalities, but would be allowable if corrected. As set forth above, Applicant has amended Claims 9 and 29 to correct the minor informalities. Therefore, Claims 9-17, 37 and 38 are now allowable.

Applicant further thanks the Examiner for the indication that Claims 28-34 are objected to due to minor informalities, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has rewritten dependent Claim 28 in independent form (to include all the elements/features of independent Claim 21 and intervening dependent Claim 22). Therefore, Claims 28-34 are now allowable.

IV. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-8, 18-27, 35 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kuhn, et al. (US 6,327,565). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant has canceled Claims 1-8, 18-27, 35 and 36, without prejudice.

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V. CONCLUSION

As a result of the foregoing, the Applicant asserts that all the remaining Claims 9-17, 28-34, 37 and 38 are now in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests an early allowance of such Claims.

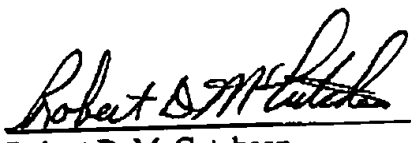
If any issues arise, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this Application, the Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at rmccutcheon@davismunck.com.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Davis Munck Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVIS MUNCK, P.C.

Date: 8/9/2004


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